

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 579

Designating December 13, 2006 as a Day of Remembrance to honor the 25th anniversary of the imposition of martial law by the Communist government in Poland.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SANTORUM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating December 13, 2006 as a Day of Remembrance to honor the 25th anniversary of the imposition of martial law by the Communist government in Poland.

Whereas, on May 9, 1945, Europe declared victory over the oppression of the Nazi regime;

Whereas Poland and other countries in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe soon fell under the oppressive control of the Soviet Union;

Whereas for decades the people of Poland struggled heroically for freedom and democracy against that oppression, paying at times the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in 1980, the Solidarity Trade Union was formed in Poland;

Whereas membership in the Solidarity Trade Union grew rapidly in size to 10,000,000 members, and the Union obtained unprecedented moral power that soon threatened the Communist government in Poland;

Whereas, on December 13, 1981, the Communist government in Poland crushed the Solidarity Trade Union, imprisoned the leaders of the Union, and imposed martial law on Poland;

Whereas, through his profound influence, Pope John Paul II gave the people of Poland the hope and strength to bear the torch of freedom that eventually lit up all of Europe;

Whereas the support of the Polish-American community while martial law was imposed on Poland was essential in encouraging the people of Poland to continue to struggle for liberty;

Whereas the people of the United States were greatly supportive of the efforts of the people of Poland to rid themselves of an oppressive government;

Whereas the people of the United States expressed their support on Christmas Eve 1981 by lighting candles in their homes to show solidarity with the people of Poland who were suffering under martial law;

Whereas, in 1989, the people of Poland finally won the right to hold free parliamentary elections, which led to the election of Poland's first Prime Minister during the post-war era who was not a member of the Communist party, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki; and

Whereas, in 2006, Poland is an important member of the European Union, one of the closest allies of the United States, a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and a reliable partner in the war on

terrorism that maintains an active and crucial presence in Iraq and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates December 13, 2006, the 25th an-
3 niversary of the imposition of martial law by the
4 Communist government in Poland, as a Day of Re-
5 membrance honoring the sacrifices paid by the peo-
6 ple of Poland during the struggle against Com-
7 munist rule;

8 (2) honors the people of Poland who risked
9 their lives to restore liberty in Poland and to return
10 Poland to the democratic community of nations; and

11 (3) calls on the people of the United States to
12 remember that the struggle of the people of Poland
13 greatly contributed to the fall of Communism and
14 the ultimate end of the Cold War.

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